GARDEN AND FOREST.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

THE GARDEN AND FOREST PUBLISHING CO.

OFFICE: TRIBUNE BUILDING, NEW YORK.

Conducted by . . . . . Professor C. S. SARGENT.

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE AT NEW YORK, N. Y.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1894.

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The Charles River at Boston.

IF the project for the improvement of the lower reaches of the Charles River, just laid before the Massachusetts Legislature, is adopted, Boston and its metropolitan environment will possess a chain of recreation-grounds which, for attractiveness and accessibility, will have no superiors in the world. The problem of dealing satisfactorily with the Charles River has been a trying one. It was considered by a special commission appointed nearly three years ago, and in its memorable report on a system of open spaces for the neighborhood of Boston, the Metroplitan Park Commission gave much attention to the subject. Good progress was made by both these bodies, but as it was a subject requiring much special study, the Legislature of last year entrusted the matter to a joint board, consisting of the State Board of Health and the Metropolitan Park Commission, with specific instructions to report a plan for its improvement. The Health Board was made a factor in the investigation on account of the serious sanitary elements of the question. Very fortunately it happens that Dr. Henry P. Walcott, of Cambridge, who, as the chairman of that board, was also made chairman of the joint committee, is a man of taste and of particular sympathy for the landscape and recreative aspects of the problem. The admirable character of the report in this respect is in a great measure due to this circumstance. The engineering features of the scheme originated with Mr. Frederic P. Stearns, the engineer of the Health Board, and the design is the result of the studies of Messrs. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, the landscape-architects for the Metropolitan Park Commission. Mr. Eliot, as a member of the Charles River Improvement Commission, was already thoroughly familiar with the subject.

The Charles River is a very crooked stream; it draining an area of about 200 square miles. It forms the southerly boundary of a portion of Boston, between the city and Dedham, and then, after a course of some thirty miles, again comes to the city from the westward, changing to an estuary at the dam in Watertown, expanding to a wide basin between Boston and Cambridge, and then flowing through the heart of the city with the Charlestown district for its left bank. The Charles is now commonly taken to end at its confluence with the Mystic, off the Navy Yard, but in the old times its mouth was considered to be the entrance to the bay at Boston Light. The scope of the investigation covered the stream from the Waltham boundary down, directly affecting the four municipalities of Watertown, Newton, Cambridge and Boston. The report states that no treatment of the stream can be entirely satisfactory that does not include the region above the Waltham line. That portion of the problem, however, is comparatively simple. Not so, however, the last half-mile which is included within the scope of the investigation. Here the conditions had been so complicated by the planless possession of the stream by the railroads entering Boston from the northward, which in the past few months have made new and extensive encroachments here, that it seemed hopeless to attempt to deal with this section for the present.

The scheme proposed is radical and comprehensive, and is also the most economical one possible. Hamburg, with its beautiful Alster basin, furnishes the precedent, and as the conditions of the problems are, in many respects, identical, the example of the German city is closely followed. At Hamburg a small and shallow stream was dammed, forming a charming lake extending far back into the country, whose waters are very extensively used for pleasure purposes.

The Charles presents a still nobler opportunity. It is proposed to dam the river between Boston and Cambridge from the handsome pleasure-ground, the Charlesbank, across to the contemplated new one in East Cambridge, called "The Front." This dam, a causeway 100 feet wide on top, will provide a broad new bridge, and will have a lock for navigation. Above is the ample basin that comprises what is left of the old Back Bay. By excluding the tide it will become a fresh-water basin, and by maintaining its level eight feet above low water, and two and a half feet below high-water mark, it will furnish the simplest and cheapest means of improving for park purposes or other uses the extensive marsh-grounds bordering the stream. There are a thousand acres of such lands whose drainage-level would thus be lowered and made suitable for park treatment at comparatively small cost. The salt-marshes, for instance, would be made fresh, so that they could be planted with trees and shrubbery, with pleasing vegetation clothing the shores to the water's edge. Whoever has seen the Teltauer Anlagen, near Berlin, on the banks of the Spree, or the parks of Chicago, will perceive what beautiful scenery can be easily created on these level lands adjoining the Charles, particularly when we consider their superior attractiveness in the possession of more varied horizon.

This form of treatment also offers the best safeguard against freshets by furnishing a broad water surface whose level would be but slightly raised by the heaviest flood. The Back Bay Fens improvement was originally designed to perform a like surface for the Stony Brook water-shed, and has often justified the prophecies of its value. The dam proposed also furnishes complete protection against inundation by the exceptional tides which sometimes rise on the coast. It is estimated that, in the lessened expense for retaining-walls made possible by excluding the tide, the dam will save something like four times its cost. It is proposed to treat the upper reaches of the improvement in a more natural and, at the same time, less costly way by beaches and sloping shores.

Cambridge has already entered upon an extensive scheme of park improvement, the most valuable feature of which is the river-bank, which has been taken for a distance of about four and a half miles, to be laid out in esplanades, playgrounds and parkways. That side of the river, by reason of its pleasant exposure, is peculiarly adapted to development as an attractive residence section.

On the Boston side the Park Department has under consideration a plan for the extension of the Charlesbank—the

completed portion of which forms a local pleasure-ground of inestimable value to the neighboring tenement-house quarter—as a river-side boulevard as far up stream as the river retains its character as a broad basin. The legislation that authorizes this restricts filling in the rear of Beacon Street to a width of 100 feet. As this limitation would leave the unattractive back yards of Beacon Street abutting on the esplanade, the joint board favors a creation of new land that would permit the erection of an additional line of houses or other buildings facing the river. The reason for this is not only to give a worthy frontage on the basin, but to furnish the means for meeting the cost of the improvement by the profits on the sale of the new land. The commonwealth's real-estate operations of this character have always been very profitable.

This proposition has naturally met with intense antagonism from the residents of the water-side of Beacon Street, whose celebrated river view would thus be cut off. The excecution of this phase of the project is in doubt. The grand basin has the capacity of making one of the noblest features in the plan of Boston, and it is important that the most should be made of it. If the new frontage cannot be secured, then, if possible, in compensation for retaining their privilege, the Beacon Street residents should be required to give their houses an aspect on their water-side worthy of the prospect which they so highly esteem.

The landscape-architects consider the plan in three divisions. First is the present "fresh-water section," above the dam in Watertown. The stream here winds tranquilly through open meadows bordered by low bluffs. The treatment here adopted is a parkway with drives on either side of the stream, except at a few places where local conditions break the continuity on one side or the other. The middle division is considered as the "marsh section." Here extensive areas of salt-marsh border the stream. These marshes present good opportunities for pleasure-grounds of considerable extent. Chief of these, situated in the Brighton district on the Boston side, is the celebrated Longfellow meadow—the spot where the Charles is described in one of the poet's verses as writing the letter S. This is in full view of the Longfellow mansion, over the Longfellow Memorial garden. Adjoining the meadow is the spacious tract presented to Harvard University as an athletic ground by Mr. H. L. Higginson, and called the Soldiers' Field. Forming the south-easterly side of the meadow, the plan provides for a speedway a mile long, with a course straight and level, unbroken by cross-roads, and easy of access.

The third division is the "basin section," which begins at a proposed new bridge near the present one from Cambridge to Cottage Farms. The discontinuance of the latter is recommended. The new bridge would connect directly with the new Boston parkway and the Boston park system. This bridge, marking the entrance of the river into the basin, would command a magnificent view down the whole length of the basin to the State House crowning Beacon Hill. Above this bridge the shores would be irregular and mantled with trees and shrubberies, except where it might be desirable that the public should reach the water at beaches or boat-landings. Below the bridge the shores would be treated formally with low walls or curbs of stone, broken by bastions affording water views, landings for steam or electric passenger boats, docks for row-boats and the like. These low walls are made possible by the exclusion of the tide and the practically constant level of the water, which even in a freshet would rise but a few inches. The effect above and below this bridge may be compared to that of the lagoon and the basins at the World's Fair.

The landscape-architects well say that this project, so far from being extravagant, is governed by considerations of real economy. For nowhere west of the State House can so much well-distributed open space be had for so little money as on the banks of the Charles River. The total area of the open water-way along the eight miles of the river from Waltham to the basin is about 300 acres. Many cities have been compelled to pay immense sums of money for open spaces no larger than that which nature has freely bestowed upon the cities of the lower valley of the Charles. If the crowded districts of the valley care to reap the advantage of the free gift of nature they have only to take possession of the banks of the river.

For damming the river the consent of the national Government must be obtained. As it would improve the navigation and make the arsenal at Watertown more accessible, and as the harbor would not be injured, this consent should be forthcoming. Without a dam the improvement would be less satisfactory and more expensive, but the landscape-architects urge at all events the acquisition of a continuous river-bank reservation, whether the river retains the character of a tidal estuary or not. They, as well as the joint commission, consider the problem from a broad, humane point of view which makes the general public welfare paramount to all other considerations, and emphasize strongly invaluable service which the stream can render when developed to its best possibilities as a drainage channel, an open space, a parkway, a chain of playgrounds and a boating-course.

Oaks in May.

ELEVEN species of Oak and one or two hybrids are indigenous to the vicinity of Chicago. Those mentioned in this article and the hybrid Quercus Leana are found in the valley of the Desplaines River, where the different kinds are most numerous within a limited area.* Seven of them occur in a small piece of woodland at Willow Springs, and the hybrid and the Chestnut Oak are found but a mile or two away. The soil and other conditions are here sufficiently varied for the trees to grow near each other, and their proximity makes the comparison of their characteristics easy. When the Oaks are putting forth their leaves and flowers, usually about the middle of May or a little later, these woods are very attractive, the colors of the foliage are less intense than those of autumn, but the great range of tints and the varied aspects of the unfolding leaves give a striking individuality to nearly every kind. A little familiarity with the Oaks in early spring enables one to readily distinguish the different species. Then gray and silvery tones of color are added, and impart to the foliage a delightful mellowness. The surrounding air partakes of this softness, and the twigs and tender leaves and flowers are enveloped in a misty light.

Some of the biennial fruited species are usually the earliest to open their buds, and their leaves may be considerably developed when some of the annual fruited ones are starting. With the later forms the Hickories and the Walnuts add their different shades of green, yellow and red fire; they flourish under conditions favorable to some of the Oaks, and it is rare to find the Red Oak in any part of this region without some of the Hickories near at hand.

The young leaves of the Black Oak (Quercus tinctoria) are usually red, the freshest of them nearly scarlet. The foliage retains this tinge for some time, so that the tree is now the most intensely colored of any of the group to which it belongs. The deeply divided leaves are on relatively long petioles, which are at first bent down, but soon spread out from the branches. The fresh twigs are yellowish green, some of them stained with red, and are covered by a yellowish russet down. The leaves are whitened beneath with a pale tomentum. The hairs are often very dense on the upper surface, and the foliage assumes a gray look, around which the misty light plays with a beautiful effect when the trees are between the

*In some of the maps of the early French explorers of this region, as those of Charlevoix and D'Anville, the carrying-place between the Chicago River and the Desplaines was called the Portage of the Oaks ("Portage des Chênes"), thus seemingly recognizing the Oak as giving character to the landscape.

observer and the sun. The divided leaves give the foliage a feathery appearance, and as the long yellow aments are also easily stirred, a light wind gives the tree a shimmering appearance like that of rippling water under subdued sunlight.

The Scarlet Oak (Quercus coccinea) has nearly the same general appearance as Quercus tinctoria. The leaf-blades are, however, shorter, thinner and less hairy at this time. They are quite purple when the buds first expand, but soon take on a light-green color. The foliage has the same feathery look presented by that of the Black Oak, but with a lighter color as a whole.

The young leaves of the Red Oak (Q. rubra) are greener than those of the Black or Scarlet Oak, though often stained with purple. They are smoother, much less deeply lobed from the first, and foreshadow their permanent form more nearly. They droop considerably on the long green petioles, and seem more abundant at first than those of the other Oaks, for the smooth brownish branchlets are soon hidden by the leaves and long aments which hang in bunches like tassels. The young shoots are also green or slightly dyed with red, and are more slender than those of the Black Oak, and the foliage has not the airy grace which characterizes that of Oaks with more finely divided leaves. The leafage takes on a green and smooth appearance quite early in its development.

The leaves of the Laurel Oak (Q. imbricaria) or Shingle Oak, as it is more commonly called here, are very narrow and almost linear at first, with their edges so strongly revolute that they almost touch each other. They are slightly hairy, the ground color yellowish green, with a purple tinge. The fresh twigs are flushed with red on the upper side where most exposed to the light. The older twigs are grayish green, but the color of the bark on the branches is so dark as to impart to the spray a dusky hue. The young leaves stand out stiffly from the ends of the branchlets, studding them with sharply outlined, stellate clusters. Being so narrow, the foliage is very open, and one can see through the tree-top in almost any direction, so that the tree has an appearance quite distinct from other Oaks.

The most abundant of the annual-fruited Oaks is the White Oak (Q. alba). The coarsely toothed young leaves are rather aborate in outline, and their short petioles bend abruptly down, so that the ends of the shoots are shielded with bunches of leaves which almost hug them. The leaves are softly pubescent, and stained with purple and pink, but they are paler and more downy beneath. The new shoots are also reddish and downy, and they grow so rapidly as to become two or three inches long when the leaves have attained scarcely more than an inch in length. When the pale down on the upper leaf surface is dense, the trees have a hoary look as if covered with the rime of the early morning. The soft appearance of such trees is greatly intensified in the bright sunlight, and they assume a peculiar tenderness of tint. The smooth and pale bark on the newer twigs of preceding years contrasts prettily with the color of the leaves. The white flaky bark of the older branches adds to the beauty of the tree at this season.

The leaves of the Overcup Oak (Q. macrocarpa) are at first slightly hoary-downy, but soon become smooth and yellowish-green and glossy above, but they are pale green and duller beneath. They are narrowly oblong, and are more deeply lobed than those of the White Oak. The mesophyll of the larger lobes is very full and plaited into ridges between the straight veins, which, being of a deeper green, show effectively in the midst of the bordering tints of yellow. The leaves spread out from the recent shoots somewhat horizontally, and the aments hang down beneath them in thick bunches. The twigs of the two or three preceding years are stubby and covered with a pale-brown bark. The bark of the older twigs and branches is thick and roughened by corky ridges. This dark rough bark is in marked contrast with the yellowish color of the leaves, and, showing prominently, gives to the tree a rather dark or grayish black appearance.

The Swamp White Oak (Q. bicolor) resembles the Overcup Oak considerably at this time, though its oval, smooth and glossy leaves are less divided. They spread out from the twigs in a similar manner, and the mesophyll between the straight veins is also full and wrinkled. They are yellowish green, but with a stain of purple, which is more pronounced toward their tips. The young shoots, covered with a green bark, make a quick growth, and are sometimes four inches long at the time of flowering. The general color of the foliage is yellowish green, but with a cast of brownish purple.

The Yellow Oak (Q. Muhlenbergii) bears light-green leaves, the newest tinged with purple, especially beneath, though the upper surface is often stained with a greenish yellow varying to a pale yellowish brown. They are rather oblanceolate in form, smooth and a little glossy above, pubescent beneath. The straight veins and toothed or coarsely serrate margins give them individuality from the first and mark them as members of the group of Chestnut Oaks. The petioles and fresh twigs are brownish. The leaves are crowded at the end of the branchlets, giving to the foliage a tufted look. It is open as a whole, calling to mind the Shingle Oak. The purple tint on the lower surface of the leaves is quite marked, and frequently persists near the ends till they are three or four inches in length. The foliage is light-colored when taken in a mass, especially in the bright sunlight, and has a yellowish cast of color resembling that of the freshly starting Hickories.

Englewood, Chicago. *E. J. Hill.*

Foreign Correspondence.

London Letter.

JOHNSON'S GARDENERS' DICTIONARY.—The new edition, revised and enlarged by Mr. Wright, of the Kew Herbarium, and Mr. Dewar, curator of the Glasgow Botanic Garden, is now complete and is issued in one volume by G. Bell & Sons, the publishers. It is in every sense a first-rate book, thoroughly reliable, both as to its botanical and horticultural qualities, as I am able to testify from a knowledge of the book itself and of the men who are responsible for this revision. The *Genera Plantarum* of Bentham and Hooker has been followed in respect of genera, and the nomenclature as to species is that which is in use at Kew. It is only at such an establishment as Kew that a work of this kind could be prepared. The plan of the book is an alphabetical arrangement of all the names of plants, scientific and vernacular, insects which affect them, and plant-diseases generally, tools used in their cultivation—in short, everything that a gardener is interested in professionally. The authors are to be congratulated, and so, too, are the gardeners, for whom their work has a special value.

PLANT-COLLECTING IN BORNEO was the subject of a lecture before the Royal Horticultural Society last Tuesday by Mr. F. W. Burbidge, M.A., now curator of the Trinity College Gardens, Dublin, and once a successful traveler and collector. Mr. Burbidge unites a wide knowledge of plants with a keen enthusiasm in all matters connected with them, and, what is, perhaps, of at least as much importance, a felicitous, engaging style when he sets out to write or talk about them. His book, *The Gardens of the Sun*, is delightful reading and full of interesting information; he is an active writer upon horticultural subjects, and he can lecture well, as was shown by the distinguished audience he had last Tuesday and their staying to hear him out. Borneo must be an exceptionally rich field for the botanical collector; indeed, all Malaysia teems with plants of the greatest interest and value, both to the botanist and horticulturist. One of the best things in the lecture was Mr. Burbidge's recommendation that in future a plant-collector should accompany every great scientific expedition from England.

Examinations in Horticulture.—The Royal Horticultural Society has taken a leaf out of the book of the Science and Art Department and proposes to hold examinations in horticulture on May 1st next in "centres" all over the country. Candidates will have to pay a small fee, they must be of a limited age, and they will be examined in what is termed elementary practical and scientific horticulture. They will be awarded certificates if their answers are satisfactory, and these certificates will, it is supposed, be of value to them afterward in procuring situations. We have also a school of horticulture at Swanley, which professes to teach all that a man or woman (there is a woman's section) need know to be able to manage a garden. Scholarships are awarded, but no wages are paid. The fee for women is £70 a year. In the prospectus it is stated that women who have been trained at Swanley have afterward obtained head-gardeners' situations worth twenty-four shillings a week.

English Forestry.—It is quite as easy for people to lose their reason over forest-protection as over tree-spoliation. While on the one side there is a general complaint that there is no good forest-management to be found anywhere in Britain, on the other we have vigorous protestations from what may be called the true protectionists against any attempt to make our national woods and forests worthy of a nation which professes to be practical. A great many people have the same objection to cutting down an old tree as they have to pole-axing old worn-out horses, and they would sacrifice posterity to sentiment by allowing every tree to stand till it crumbled through old age. If a forester who understands his art sets about clearing away worthless and decayed trees to make room for young and healthy ones, he is sure to bring about his ears the protests of the old women who "love old trees and cannot bear, etc." It is hard up-hill work to teach either the masses or the classes that the systematic cultivation of trees cannot be managed without the use of axe and saw as well as spade.

Auriculas have a limited number of admirers, and those few who are enthusiastic cultivators of them are looked upon as men with odd tastes. This was made clear to me last Tuesday when the National Auricula and Primula Society held its annual exhibition in London, and attracted a great number of visitors, most of whom, however, were evidently unable to find any attractions in many of the choicest of the fanciers' exhibits. "Ugly green things"; "those moldy plants," "queer-looking, not a bit like what one expects and admires in a flower,"—such were the expressions one heard from the uninitiated when looking upon the precious gray-green or white-edged varieties shown by such masters of the cult as the Rev. F. D. Horner, Mr. B. Simonite and Mr. Douglas. The self-colored section came in for more admiration, as also, of course, did the species of Primula, and especially the gaudy Polyanthuses. The plants generally were remarkable for exceptionally good foliage rather than for good, well-formed, evenly marked flowers. On the whole the exhibition was a success.

Bougainvillea glabra Sanderiana.—A group of plants bearing this name was exhibited by Messrs. F. Sander & Co. at the last meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, and was awarded a first-class certificate on account of its extraordinary floriferousness. Plants grown in four-inch pots had stems a yard or so long wreathed from top to bottom in bright rosy mauve flower-bracts. Both the type and B. spectabilis are grand plants when in flower, but they do not flower, under glass, at any rate, with that freedom which is desirable. This is specially true of B. spectabilis, the glory of most tropical gardens, but a disappointing plant in a stove. It is flowering fairly well this year at Kew, in consequence, no doubt, of the extra ripening it got last summer, but, as a rule, it misses. B. glabra is not quite so bad as this. But with this new variety I understand that the difficulty is to get the plants to grow to any size before they burst into bloom.

Alocasia Watsoniana was awarded a first class certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society this week, a fine specimen of it being exhibited by Messrs. F. Sander & Co., who introduced it last year from Sumatra. It has irregular cordate leaf-blades nearly a yard long and a foot and a half wide, on stalks three or four feet high; the color of the blade is deep violet-purple on the reverse side, the upper surface being olive-green, shaded with purple. It is a very handsome stove-plant Aroid, and is quite distinct from A. Putzeysii, with which it was at first supposed to be identical.

Eurycles sylvestris is a handsome bulbous plant from tropical Australia, and might be called the Old World representative of Eucharis. It has large kidney-shaped bright green leaves on long stalks and a tall stout scape nearly two feet high bearing an umbel of about twenty pure white flowers, nearly as large as those of Eucharis grandiflora, and not unlike them in shape. Plants of it are now in flower at Kew. It is an old garden-plant, but rarely seen in cultivation now.

Phalænopsis tetraspis is now flowering freely at Kew, and a plant of it was exhibited before the Royal Horticultural Society last Tuesday, and received an award of merit. It is evidently easily grown, and flowers as freely as the best of the species in cultivation, plants which when introduced last year from the Andaman Islands to Kew were quite small and weak, being now strong, healthy and in flower. The flowers are like those of P. speciosa, but pure waxy white, and fully two inches in diameter; the labellum is thick, blunt and fleshy and covered with soft white hairs. This species was first discovered by Thomas Lobb when collecting for Messrs. Veitch, but it was not introduced till 1881, when Mr. Bull obtained living plants of it. So far as I know, it had never flowered in England till last year, when several plants among a consignment received at Kew from the Andamans, flowered, and a figure prepared from them was published in the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 7321. I have heard of a specimen showing twelve flowers on a scape.

Cœlogyne Swaniana is a new Orchid in the way of C. Massangeana both in habit and flowers, the principal difference being in the color of the latter, which have white sepals and petals and a red-brown lip striped with pale yellow.

Lælia cinnabarina is a very handsome Orchid when grown and flowered well. Plants of it shown at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society by Mr. Appleton, of Weston-super-Mare, were so attractive that the committee awarded them a first class certificate to call attention to the merits of an Orchid which has been in cultivation over fifty years, but is still neglected. One of Mr. Appleton's plants bore three spikes, one with ten, another with nine flowers, and each flower was fully four inches across, and of the brightest orange-scarlet color. Grown thus it is superior to its ally, L. harpophylla.

Rose Crimson Rambler attracted much attention last Tuesday, Mr. Turner sending a large number of big plants of it covered with flowers to the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society. This Rose will become a universal favorite on account of the bright color of its flowers and its extraordinary free-growing, free-flowering nature. I have told its history in previous letters. It is pre-eminently a plant to be kept in mind by every one interested in good hardy shrubs for the million.

Carnation Uriah Pike is being largely exhibited and advertised in England as a Carnation which combines the color, form and fragrance of the old-fashioned Clove Carnation with the grass and habit of the best of the Tree Carnations. It is offered by Mr. James Pike, of South Acton, London, who says of it: "It is a lovely crimson-maroon in color, splendid habit, a vigorous grower and most profuse bloomer, strong clove scented, and throwing its perfect-formed flowers on long stems, which is an indispensable quality; the calyx does not split, and resists disease. Its lasting proclivities in a cut state are marvelous." I saw a group of it last week, and can endorse most of what is here said of it.

London. *W. Watson.*

New or Little-known Plants.

A New Bumelia from Mexico.

AMONG the many novelties brought back by Dr. Edward Palmer, from Mexico, in the year 1891, are specimens from a large and handsome tree which I have named Bumelia Palmeri.*

This tree (see illustration on page 196 of this issue) has an immense top, resembling a wide-spreading Oak, and grows to the height of fifty feet or more, with a large trunk fully three feet in diameter. The bark is rough and corky; the leaves are large and shining, and the flowers are produced in great abundance in the axils of the leaves. The fruit, which is a drupe, is about the size of a plum; its pulp, when ripe, is much like that of the grape, which it resembles also in taste, but when dried it is more like the prune; it is very much used as an article of food, both in the fresh and dried state. The dried fruit is to be found in the markets at Culiacan. The drupe, when ripe, is black, with a green pulp, which comes off free from a brown lucid seed; the kernel is said to be bitter.

The fruit is reported to ripen in April and May, although Dr. Palmer succeeded in finding a single ripe fruit as early as November 10th. The trees are rarely destroyed and are found scattered over the rich plains about Culiacan. It seems to be well known to the Mexicans, and they call it "Bebalamas." This is another case in which a tree well known in Mexico has been overlooked by the botanist.

Very little is known of the Mexican species of Bumelia, and still less of their fruit. Up to 1881, when the second volume of the *Biologia Centrala Americana* appeared, only five species had been reported from this region. Mr. Hemsley, in his enumeration, credits eleven species to Mexico, one of which is undetermined, and five are described for the first time. One other species, it seems, should have been added to these, namely, B. lanuginosa. Two species have recently been described by Captain John Donnell Smith in the *Botanical Gazette* (B. leiogyna and B. pleistochasia), and one by Professor Engler (B. Mexicana). These, with the present species, swell the number of described Mexican species to fifteen.

Washington, D. C. *J. N. Rose.*

* Bumelia Palmeri, Rose, n. sp. A large tree, fifteen metres high, .9 to 1.5 metres in diameter, glabrous throughout; leaves, alternate, oblong to obovate, 6.2 to 11.2 cm. long, including the petiole (10 to 15 mm. long), obtuse, shining above, pale beneath, with a close, silky pubescence; fascicles about 15-flowered; pedicels 6 to 8 mm. long, glabrous; sepals 5, oval, less than 2 mm. long, obtuse, strongly imbricated, scarious margined, glabrous, corolla white (?), about 2 mm. long, 5-parted; lobes oval to oblong, obtuse, each with two lateral appendages; appendages acute, narrower and two-thirds the length of the lobes; stamens 5; staminoda oblong, obtuse, subentire, smaller than the corolla lobes; ovary glabrous, 5-celled, 40-vuled; drupe oblong, 16 mm. long, truncate at apex, black, 1-seeded; seeds lucid, spherical, 10 mm. in diameter, with an impressed scar; albumen none—Rich plains, Culiacan, August 27th to September 15th, 1891. Palmer. No. 1513.

Cultural Department.

Notes on Trees and Shrubs.

THE first three weeks of the month of March, this year, were warm and pleasant, and vegetation gave promise of early advancement. American Elms showed mature blossoms with ripe pollen in the fourth week. The last days of March and the first week of April were cool, with frequent frosts, and from the 9th to the 15th of April we had a cold, stormy time, with more or less snowfall every day. Since then the weather has generally been warm and pleasant, the last three or four days of April and the first two days of May proving uncomfortably warm, the 2d of May being the hottest day recorded for this season of the year during many years. The cool weather of early April proved an effective check to further rapid growth, but the growth in some cases had already so far advanced that the cold storm appeared to be the cause of a good deal of damage. Many herbaceous plants, like Anemone Japonica and Hemerocallis, now show the brown and dead leaves or tips from the effects of too early exposure, and even the tips of the growths of some trees and shrubs have a brownish tinge. It is not often that the native early-flowering trees or shrubs fail to produce fruit through the effects of late frosts. This year, however, such trees as the American Elms are almost fruitless when compared with the abundance of other years, although there was no appreciable diminution in flowering, as these trees bear very regularly every year. Even the early-flowering Willows, like Salix discolor, which are usually prepared for all kinds of weather, are in many cases only developing fruits or capsules on the most sheltered side of the catkins, the other side being barren.

The mid-April storm proved disastrous to the swelling flower-buds of Prunus Davidiana and to the beautiful P. pendula, so that these little trees were almost without a blossom. P. tomentosa also suffered a good deal, and there was little bloom on the plant. The later-flowering Cherries and Plums, however, seem to have suffered no injury, although the great heat has caused the blossoms to be of short duration. The past winter has, on the whole, not done so much injury to shrubs as might have been feared. An abundance of snow was, no doubt, of much value as a protection.

Corylopsis pauciflora was badly killed, as is generally the case with this beautiful shrub unless protected. On a large plant the only parts which survived, and which bore an abundance of flowers, were a number of stems that had been bent to the ground and covered with soil. These branches were uncovered late in March, the first flowers opened about the 18th of April, and the last of them were fading away about the 4th or 5th of May, by which time the leaves were becoming well grown. Although not hardy in this climate, except in an exceptionally sheltered situation, it is well worth cultivation, and protection in winter, on account of the abundance of pretty pale yellow, bell-shaped flowers which are regularly produced. Its slender twiggy stems are easily bent in any position for covering. So far as known, it has rarely borne fruit in this locality. The fruit resembles that of the Witch-hazel, Hamamelis Virginiana, to which the Corylopsis is closely allied. That the plant will thrive in New England, is shown by the photograph in vol. v., page 342, of GARDEN AND FOREST, of a fine bushy specimen growing in Dr. Hall's garden at Bristol, Rhode Island. C. spicata is another species, introduced from Japan, which is a great acquisition in all gardens where it proves hardy. A few flowers were produced here for the first time this season. The flowers are more beautiful and interesting than those of C. pauciflora, but, unfortunately, the plant seems even less hardy. The blossoms are of a richer light yellow color, and are produced in much longer racemes, each bearing from half a dozen to a dozen flowers. These flowers have a very sweet, though not very strong, odor, somewhat like that of cowslips, though also reminding some persons of violets. The plant has much stouter branches and in every way is larger than C. pauciflora. It blossoms at about the same time, but, unless very carefully protected, it is not likely to give much satisfaction in a climate as severe as that about Boston. Further trials are necessary, however, before its true value is known, as the plant is yet very rare in this part of the country.

Arnold Arboretum. *J. G. Jack.*

Current Notes on Irises.

THE most striking Iris-flower in the garden this week is Iris Saari lurida, a variety from Cilicia, named from the river Sar, near which it is found. This is an Oncocyclus Iris, which at first glance might be mistaken for I. Susiana, but it is distinctly different both in plant and flower. The former is a somewhat smaller flower, and has large standards profusely dotted with dark brown and with very distinct reddish brown veins, from which radiate linings, becoming fainter toward the edges. The falls are somewhat narrower than those of I. Susiana, and are dotted and veined. The nearly black signal blotch is not so well defined as that of I. Iberica. The beard is composed of scattered yellow hairs beneath the claw.

Iris Bosniacæ is a new Iris, for which we are indebted to Max Leichtlin. This is a dwarf plant with short broad leaves, bearing on short stems medium-sized flowers of a pure, pleasing shade of lemon-yellow. It has very prominent orange crests and the claw prettily lined with brown. The standards are large and broad. It is quite the handsomest of the yellow dwarf bearded Irises.

Iris Statellæ, also in flower, is a variety of I. lutescens, from Sicily. It is a much handsomer flower than the type, being creamy white, with prominent standards and falls marked with brown lines and having a bright orange beard. The type from the south of France is also in flower. Baker says he cannot draw any definite line between it and I. Chamæiris. Neither does there seem much distinctness between them as garden-plants. With me the latter seems the more vigorous species. Another dwarf Iris this week in flower is the purple-flowered I. aphylla (I. nudicaulis, Lam.), with numerous synonyms, and

I. biflora, the I. nudicaulis of the *Botanical Magazine*—the former from eastern Europe and the latter from Portugal. The I. aphylla is of a reddish purple, and I. biflora a rich dark blue-purple. I. Balkana is still another dwarf species with cream-colored standards and whiter falls, which are stained lilac. This has a very prominent orange beard, and is an attractive species when in flower. None of the dwarf Irises show their full effectiveness except when well established and flowering freely in masses.

In my calendar of dwarf Irises I must not neglect to notice an Asia Minor species, sent out two years since, by Mr. Whittall, and as yet unnamed, but botanically said to be near I. mellita. This has very prominent standards of a rather dull yellow, prettily marked at the base with brown. The falls, lined on the claw and with prominent yellow beards, are of the peculiar color known to china decorators as gray-gold. Near the claw there is also a touch of light blue. Altogether this is a very distinct plant, of which I shall soon have a small surplus to distribute to those interested.

The first of the taller Irises of the year are just appearing, the blue Iris Sibirica, var. orientalis, leading the van. This, which is also grown as I. sanguinea and I. hæmatophylla, is one of the hardiest and best of garden Irises, having short creeping rhizomes, which are not affected by an excess of moisture. The grass-like foliage has tints of red, and the plentiful flowers are dark blue. The falls have white signals lined with blue. A daintier-flowered tall kind is I. oxypetala, which is a variety of I. ensata; this has narrow foliage, and small, though beautiful, light lilac-colored flowers. The falls, which are narrow, are veined with green. This variety can be commended as a distinct beauty.

The first of the showy German Irises also are opening their flowers this week, I. Germanica alba and a larger-flowered hybrid of the same color being the first to unfold. With these appear the Italian form, I. Germanica semperflorens, a dark purple flower, more reddish than the common type and dwarfer. This does not appear to carry out the expectations realized by its specific name, apparently given by Damman.

In the greenhouse has been flowering for some time the interesting Irid, Marica cœrulea, which is a handsome Flag from Brazil. It is an attractive greenhouse-plant, with Flag-like leaves nearly three feet tall, and out of flower is a desirable plant. It flowers on tall, winged stems, from which, near the tip, the flowers are borne on short peduncles with three or more flowers. These are fugacious, but attractive. They have the form of Tigridias (with bowl-like depressions), and the outer segments are clear pure blue, at base being veined with brown. The inner segments contain tints of blue, white and chocolate. This has flourished in the greenhouse among a general collection of plants, and I presume, from my experience, offers no cultural difficulties.

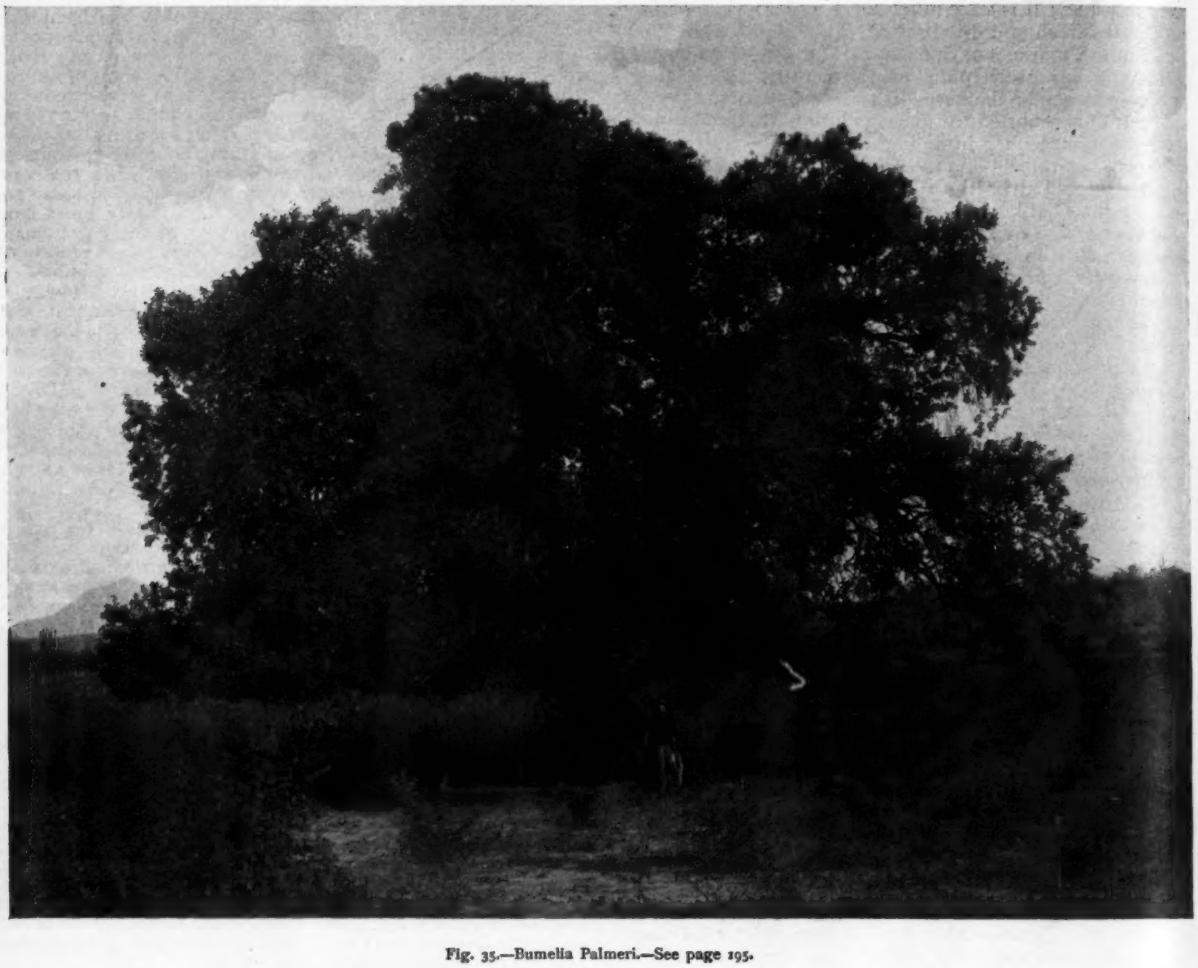

Fig. 35.—Bumelia Palmeri.—See page 195.

Diplarrhena Moræa is also an interesting Irid from Australia, which occasionally gives one a glance of its small white flowers, with purple styles, these lasting only a few hours. This plant is very tenacious of life, thriving in conditions of dryness which would almost discourage a Cactus.

Elizabeth, N. J. *J. N. Gerard.*

Flower-garden Notes.

IN this most delightful season of the year herbaceous plants of all kinds are starting into growth, many of them with surprising vigor, and most of the hardy bulbous plants are in bloom. The Narcissus season is about past; only the later forms of the Poet's Narcissus are to follow, and these will not be over until after Decoration Day, at which time they are always highly useful.

It is a matter of regret that the many new forms of Spanish

Daffodils are so uncertain in their behavior. With us they promised well the first year, as the flowers were strong and of the most varied forms of any section, but the next season they did not do so well, and this year very few have put in an appearance. The conclusion that I have reached is that they are not to be depended on for our northern latitude, and intending cultivators should be cautious about planting them in any section until they have been fully tested. In sharp contrast to these Spanish kinds, the older and well-known sorts have been better and stronger than ever, and are among our choicest spring-flowering bulbs, as well as the most satisfactory. This is especially true of Countess of Annesley, all the bicolors, not omitting M. Foster, the latest of all in this section and as good as Emperor or Horsfieldii. The Incomparabilis varieties always do well, and so do the Leedsi and Burbidgei, for each have half the blood of N. Incomparabilis in their parentage.

Some very beautiful species of Tulip are now in bloom. Tulipa Greigi has been undisturbed for three years, and is as good as when first planted. It should be more often seen in the border, for it is one of the most ornamental of spring flowers. There came among the bulbs of T. Greigi a single bulb that has similarly spotted foliage and a bright yellow large flower, the outer petals of which are marked with crimson. This is unknown to me by name; it might be a yellow variety of the latter, but it is more robust, and I do not know of a yellow one being in commerce.

The Mertensia Virginica has been a pretty sight again this spring, and it seeds freely in the borders here. Young plants are coming up about the old plants and will soon have to be taken out, they are so plentiful. It is not often that this plant seeds in cultivation, or at least the plants do not usually come up spontaneously, but this may be accounted for in the fact that the borders are never forked over, all weeds being pulled by hand as the best way to avoid damage to the plants. This practice encourages the generation of self-sown seeds of all border-plants, and makes it easy to fill up gaps.

Pæonia tenuifolia is now in full beauty, and it is one of our best early spring flowers. Both the double and single varieties are good. They are rather scarce, and more expensive than the older herbaceous Pæonies, but are well worth having, as they soon form nice clumps and flower freely. The tree Pæonies will shortly follow, and these in turn will be followed by the herbaceous kinds. This is a well-marked period, for as soon as the herbaceous Pæonies open their flowers the rose-bugs will be here, and there will not be more than a day or two of difference either way. If these pests would but stay away a week or so, the Pæonies would have a chance to show their full beauty, but we know no way to prevent their coming.

Aside from the Funkias, there are very few good border-plants with variegated leaves that are hardy, or will keep their color all the season. An old plant, Centaurea nigra variegata, not often seen, would make a good edging to a border where such plants are desired. It is easily divided, and keeps its color throughout the season. Its habit is dense or tufted, the leaves being margined with bright yellow. If the flowers are kept cut off it improves the leaf-growth, and the blossoms are the least desirable feature, and easily spared.

Scabiosa Caucasica is a valued border-plant on account of its pretty lavender-colored flowers, a color rare in hardy plants. The plant is also rare in borders, due, I believe, to its dying out for some unknown reason. It has been suggested that S. Caucasica is a biennial, but it is a true perennial. It seeds freely, and a quantity of young seedlings generally spring up that will flower the same season if carefully transplanted in the spring. We grow our plants in a plot by themselves, as they are much used for cutting; at this time a quantity of seedlings are coming up.

Many hardy plants are of a very weedy nature, and insist on a great deal more space than was intended for them in the beginning. Many we could not well do without, so they must be forked out now when we can best determine a good place for them. The Achilleas, Monarda didyma, Spiræa lobata, Helianthus rigidus, Boltonias, Anemone Pennsylvanica and many others will suggest themselves as being offenders in this way. These need annual thinning out to keep them from appropriating the whole border. So much for permanent border-plants; but we must now prepare for those of annual duration, for these are indispensable. Asters, Stocks, Zinnias, Gladioli, Mignonette and other old favorites will have to be dotted in to take the place of those that flower early and then die down. It is never safe to begin setting these out before the end of May in this section, but they should now be in readiness for planting then. Annuals should be carefully hardened off in cold frames. Cannas, Geraniums and all plants of this description pay well for a careful hardening off also, for if taken out of the greenhouse and put in the open sun they are apt to scorch and look rusty for a week or two after being set out.

South Lancaster, Mass. *E. O. Orpet.*

Spring Flowers in Vermont.

THE spring of 1894 has been a very peculiar and trying one for hardy perennials here in Vermont. The early warm spell in March took about all the frost out of the ground, and in sheltered positions plants started into growth. Until this time plants were in excellent condition, and the extreme cold weather had apparently not injured them in the least. After this came the most trying time of all. The ground froze to a depth of three and four inches, and we had a course of warm and cold waves most injurious to plant-life. Some of the native species, such as Uvularia grandiflora and Arisæma triphyllum, in exposed positions were entirely killed. Several species of native Ferns were also killed. In nearly every instance where a covering had been given the plants in the fall, sufficient to prevent the frost from coming out, no great injury was sustained at first, but in almost every case where, for experiment, the covering was removed during the first warm spell, the injury was severe, and in several instances fatal, even though the plants were well established and had stood the winter perfectly up to March 5th.

Lilium Brownii is a tender species here, and though not difficult to grow when established, it will not stand our winters without protection. The same may be said of L. Parryi, and most of the Erythroniums of the Pacific coast also need some protection in so trying a spring. Fritillaria pudica will stand almost anything in the way of frost, without protection. All the Fritillarias from the Pacific coast do well here and increase in size with cultivation. They may not show themselves above ground the first year, as is often the case with some of the Lilies, but they establish themselves for a good start the second year, and apparently make up for lost time in size and vigor.

Draba Arizoides was among the first plants to flower here. It grows three to six inches high, with one to six umbels of pretty bright yellow flowers. The leaves are quite attractive and are clustered at the base. Among other plants which flowered in April were several of the Chionodoxas, Trillium nivale, T. recurvatum, T. erectum and T. grandiflorum; Iberis stylosa, Viola Zoyzii, Fritillaria pudica and F. liliacea; Primula spectabilis, P. minima, P. Wulferiana, P. denticulata and P. cortusoides; Arabis alpina, Anemone vernalis and A. nemorosa; Viola blanda and V. rostrata; Claytonia Virginica and C. Caroliniana; Erythronium albidum, E. Americanum and E. grandiflorum; Arabis albida foliosa and Mertensia Virginica.

Charlotte, Vt. *F. H. Horsford.*

Sweet Peas.—Many persons make a mistake in sowing their Sweet Peas too thickly, and the consequence is the plants are spindly, and produce a poorer quality of bloom than when full space is given to each one. I prefer to sow in wide drills, somewhat thinly. If the seed comes up thicker than we think is required, we can thin out the young plants when about an inch high. That this practice pays we have had abundant proof. It has been stated that one plant of the variety Emily Henderson has produced more than a thousand flowers in a season. We have never tested individual plants, but last year we kept a record of the spikes cut from a row sixty feet long, partly composed of the Eckford varieties and partly of good mixed sorts. The first flowers were cut on June 11th, and the last on October the 20th. The number gathered for each month were as follows: June, 2,000; July, 17,600; August, 18,000; September, 6,400; October, 3,500; total, 47,500. Besides this large numbers went to seed, and probably the row would have yielded 60,000 spikes if it had been carefully picked over. It pays to go over the rows as often as once a week, at least, and pick off the seed-pods. If they are allowed to remain, the flowering season will soon come to an end. Thorough soakings of water are necessary to secure the best flowers. Some liquid-manure can be added to each watering, and twice a week is none too often to give the plants a good soaking. Before flowering commences it is well to mulch a space of about eighteen inches on each side of the rows with some spent mushroom-manure or other short manure. We have seen hay and grass used for this purpose, but the mulch is better, because it not only keeps the soil cool and damp but furnishes the plants with the food they need.

Violets.—New runners inserted about the middle of April will now have made fairly good roots, and the sash should be thrown off of them on all evenings when there is no likelihood

of frost or heavy rain, and during the day-time when it is cold or partially cold. The plants must be shaded from the bright sun until they are well established in the boxes or pots where they have been placed. It is still the custom of many growers to divide the old plants and set them out in single crowns with plenty of roots attached, and fairly good returns can be had on this plan. We have given it a trial for two years past, and find that we have larger plants and smaller flowers of poorer colors than when runners are used. It should not be the object of the grower to produce large clumps to lift in the fall. A small plant with one good crown will give more flowers and of finer quality in proportion to the ground it occupies than a large one with several crowns. When the plants are smaller there is less liability to injury from damp in the heart of the plant, and that is a point of much importance during the dark winter season. We usually plant out our runners early in June, after the summer bedding is completed. The ground should be thoroughly manured, and if a moist location is to be had it is much better. The planting should be done after a rainfall, and the balls of earth taken up should be moist, and the plants themselves firmly set in the ground. When the weather proves very dry during July or August it is well to apply some light mulch to the plants, like grass sweepings from the lawn or spent mushroom-beds, either of which will answer well. If the "spot" shows itself on any variety at planting time, it is well to isolate this from the other kinds, and if, after planting, this dread disease continues, it must be attacked in its early stages, or the plants will soon be past redemption. For keeping the disease in check I have more faith in carefully picking off every affected part and keeping the roots moist than in Bordeaux mixture or other poisons.

Taunton, Mass. *W. N. Craig.*

Correspondence.

The Beauty of Rural England.

To the Editor of Garden and Forest:

Sir,—We Americans are so often, and perhaps so justly, censured for our disregard of the wonders of our vast continent, and this indifference has been so often contrasted with the Englishman's devotion to his little isle, that one is tempted sometimes to look a little critically at the England of to-day in order to discover the secret of the charm which it has for those who visit her shores. It seems to be assumed that the beauty of rural England, so perfect of its kind, that it is the embodiment of the poet's dream, has been created by its inhabitants in conscious obedience to the highest principles of landscape-art. But may it not be that this beauty has been slowly developed rather through obedience to that commonplace motive of self-interest, that natural desire to advance the material welfare of his own country which at present impels the American to convert his forests into timber, and to defile his streams with the refuse of the factory?

Mr. Nadal, in a late number of *The Century*, speaks of English scenery as suitable to the luxury and comfort of English country life. "It is appropriate," he says, "to the English flesh-pots." And, coarse as the phrase may sound, it has in it at least a germ of truth. The average Englishman dearly loves the soil, and all that springs from the soil. He is near to nature's heart in the literal rather than in the poetic sense. He loves country life, takes pleasure in horses and dogs; he has an instinctive delight in the fresh air, green fields and wide forests. This quality, rather physical than mental, he does well to preserve, since it tends to promote both healthfulness of body and serenity of mind. For his mental qualities he has a love of order and method, which shows itself in his square fields and close-clipped hedges. He delights in the thought of the material prosperity represented by the fields of waving grain and areas of rich woodland; he loves respectability and solidity. The sturdy Oak, with its wide-spreading branches and majestic strength, is dearer to him than the "immemorial Elms" with their commingling of delicate strength and tender grace. This love of growing things is universal, and naturally each individual strives to surround himself with the things he loves. The lord of the manor glories in his wide lawns and extensive parks. The peasant rejoices in the little square of scarlet Geraniums (always a square, with a circle of cobble-stones in the centre) which bloom about his cottage-door. The city corporations carefully guard the square little playgrounds so plentifully scattered throughout the thickly settled districts of the crowded city; while the window-boxes full of gay-colored flowers make glad the eye of the beholder as he walks through the dingy streets.

Time, too, has been the Englishman's ally in converting his little island into a bower of beauty, for his father and his father's father have had the same tastes, and he is too conservative by nature to destroy without good reason that which has been consecrated by time. The genial climate, moist and warm, scatters the wild flowers on every highway, and even in the track of the plowshare, and covers the scarred ruin with luxuriant ivy. In truth, nature clothes with such tender beauty what man has sought to spoil that one is sometimes tempted to think that England is beautiful, not because of its inhabitants, but in spite of them; for the beauty of England is unquestionably an inheritance of the past. The present has little part in it; and should the modern passion for change there gain ground, its beauty is doomed to disappear, for there is little innate love of beauty in the English race. For centuries, agricultural interests were paramount, and in their steady devotion to these interests this great people has developed this special form of landscape-beauty. Now, manufacturing interests are in the ascendant, and should this same beauty stand in the way of their material prosperity, I fear they would destroy it as ruthlessly as we are destroying our primeval forests.

Thirty years ago Ruskin perceived the danger that threatened England, and in his own sad fashion raised his voice to utter a warning note. He had been speaking of the forests of mediæval France. "Now you cannot," he added, "have here in England woods eighteen miles deep to the centre, but you can, perhaps, keep a fairy or two for your children yet, if you wish to keep them; but do you wish it? Suppose you had each at the back of your houses a garden large enough for your children to play in, and with just so much lawn as would give them room to run—no more, and that you could not change your abode; but that if you chose you could double your income, or quadruple it, by digging a coal-shaft in the middle of your lawn, and turning the flower-beds into heaps of coke. Would you do it? I think not. I can tell you you would be wrong if you did, though it gave you income sixty-fold instead of four-fold. Yet this is what you are doing with all England. The whole country is but a little garden, not more than enough for your children to run on the lawns, if you will let them all run there; and this little garden you will turn into furnace ground, and fill with heaps of cinders, if you can, and those children of yours will suffer for it, for the fairies will not all be banished. There are fairies of the furnace, as of the wood, and their first gifts seem to be sharp arrows of the Mighty; but their last gifts are coals of Juniper."

But Ruskin, you will say, is a poet at heart, and therefore unpractical; but surely the London *Times* is sane enough. A year ago it published an editorial, commenting on the Englishman's attitude toward the climate. Fifty years ago, it said, when the interests of the nation were mainly agricultural, and its prosperity mainly depended on the products of the soil, fine weather invariably meant weather which was best suited to the growing crops, and no one thought of grumbling at the rain which nourished the ripening corn, or dared openly rejoice in the prolonged sunshine which withered its strength. Now, except in the immediate neighborhood of a few market towns, fine weather invariably means weather which most conduces to the enjoyment of the individual. A change so marked in the temper of a people is destined to have its effect sooner or later upon the face of the land. One conservative force is worth noting: So long as the American tourist spends his money royally in worshiping the beauty which the thrift of his English ancestors has helped to create, so long the same national thrift will help to preserve the beauty.

Orange, N. J. *A. McC. Hallock.*

Early Wild Flowers in West Virginia.

To the Editor of Garden and Forest:

Sir,—The patches of woodland in this neighborhood are almost always on dry uplands. I do not know one marshy bit of woods within a radius of six miles. Almost all of these wood-lots are used at times for pasturage, and, as the trees are mainly Oaks and Hickories, hogs are turned in in the fall to feed upon the acorns and nuts that cover the ground. Cattle roam at will up and down the country roads, which are very tame and monotonous. There are no abandoned farms here, and cultivation is so close that few trees are allowed to remain in the fence-rows, and few bushes escape the browsing and nibbling of cows and sheep. Thus our roadways, instead of presenting a picturesque tangle of saplings and shrubbery, are bare and shadeless, except where bordered by wood-lots. The grass margins are kept closely cropped, and few flowers escape destruction.

Early in April we often visit a wooded hill, where we are sure to find the first wild flowers. Blood-root and Twin-leaf bloom together, and the hill for a few days is a beautiful sight, the countless numbers of pure snowy blossoms quite covering the ground. The Twin-leaf is in some demand as a cure for rheumatism, and Blood-root also is supposed to have medicinal properties, but no plant-gatherers except ourselves ever seem to invade this forest-sanctuary, which is in the heart of the largest belt of woodland in this vicinity.

Another secluded bit of woodland that has heretofore escaped the depredations of cattle and is rich in many flowers, a very large breadth of Mertensia Virginica, is now in bloom beneath its Oaks. As blue is a comparatively rare color in flowers at this season, one rarely sees such an expanse of azure carpeting as these flowers, crowded together in the rich soil, present on an April day. Most of the plants come into full bloom at the same time, so that the clear blue of the expanded blossoms pleases the eye by the purity of its tint when seen thus in the mass, and the setting of Red-bud and Dogwood trees that surround the outskirts of the plantation makes a charming wood-scene that would delight an artist.

Phlox divaricata, Stellaria, Claytonia, Dentaria, Early Larkspur, Anemone and Columbine abound. One chances on a stray plant of Hepatica now and then, but this is not common. Trailing Arbutus is unknown here, where the ground is a clay subsoil and the rocks are limestone. Eight miles away, in Berkeley County, the character of the country changes. The hills are covered with Pines and the soil is slaty. Here Trailing Arbutus grows sparsely, and many other wild flowers quite unknown to our neighborhood.

Shepherdstown, W. Va. *Danske Dandridge.*

Societies.

For Uniformity in Naming Garden-plants.

IN our report of the convention of the Society of American Florists last year, we explained certain recommendations made by the Committee on Nomenclature, of which Professor Trelease is President, which looked toward the establishment of a uniform system for naming different species and varieties of ornamental plants. We have been requested by Professor Trelease to invite attention to this matter once more, and in publishing the following note we avail ourselves of the opportunity to express the hope that the commercial horticulturists of America will do all in their power to facilitate the labors of the committee:

At the St. Louis Convention of the Society of American Florists, last August, a resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee to prepare a list of decorative plants handled by the American trade, for adoption as the official list of the society, under the following general instructions:

1. Natural species and varieties to bear the Latin names assigned to them in Nicholson's Dictionary, so far as they are named, except that where differences exist between the Dictionary and the Kew Index, now in course of publication, the name adopted by the latter is to be chosen. Species first published or reinstated subsequent to the date of the latter (1885) to be treated in accordance with botanical customs, especially that of the Kew Gardens. Any commonly used and well-known name displaced in the application of the rule, to be added as a synonym.

2. Florists' varieties, races and forms to be named in accordance with the custom of the American Pomological Society and the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, according to the originator or introducer, in the order named, the prior right to bestow a name upon each new introduction, but seeking to secure the uniform use of short, appropriate and neat vernacular names for plants of this class.

Considering the peculiar conditions which control the nomenclature of cultivated plants, substantially the same principles were sanctioned for general horticultural nomenclature by the Botanical Congress which met in Madison in the same month.

The preparation of such a list of decorative plants has now been begun by a committee of the Society of American Florists, which comprises some of the most intelligent members of the American trade; and to facilitate their worth, each American dealer, who issues a catalogue including plants of this class, is requested without delay to send three copies of any catalogue issued within the last year to the chairman of the committee, Professor William Trelease, of St. Louis, Mo.

The nomenclature of florists' plants is much confused, and the only practical way of simplifying it appears to be to prepare such a list as is proposed, which, sanctioned by the society, will afford the means of securing uniformity in the catalogues; and any assistance rendered the committee will help in the attainment of this object.

Recent Publications.

An Island Garden. By Celia Thaxter. With pictures and illustrations by Childe Hassam. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1894.

Mrs. Thaxter's garden is said to be famous all along the New England shore, and therefore it is worth writing about, even if it is only fifty feet long by fifteen feet wide. Monsieur Alphonse Karr wrote a much larger book than this, describing a tour around his garden, and he could have gone on in the same way and written half a dozen more that would have been equally entertaining and instructive. But, then, Monsieur Karr had a habit of making some correct statements in every chapter on subjects relating to the art of horticulture or to the sciences of botany or of entomology or chemistry on which it rests. The reader is lured along by his genial and sympathetic guide, who is a humorist, a poet and a philosopher by turns, but always observing sharply and recording accurately, so that while making a delightful acquaintance, he is acquiring a great deal of substantial information, and is encouraged in a hundred ways to use his eyes and investigate for himself. This is hardly Mrs. Thaxter's way. The testimony as to the charming character of her garden is quite unanimous, and yet we hardly discover why it is so attractive, from the description of it in this beautiful volume, unless, indeed, we consider the mistress of the garden as an essential part of it. In truth, the book is hardly so much a picture of the garden itself as it is of Mrs. Thaxter's emotions. No one was ever so absorbed in the cultivation of three or four square rods of soil. All the year through the garden lifts her into a constant ecstasy of delight. She is in raptures over the pleasure of hoeing and weeding, and even the slug and the cut-worm are glorified, since the garden elevates everything which comes into contact with it, whether the relation be friendly or hostile. In short, the book is a sort of rhapsody; at least, it is written in such exultation of spirit and with so many exclamation points on every page that one hardly expects to find in it cool statements, simple descriptions or any prosaic advice on practical garden subjects. And when Mrs. Thaxter does drop into details her counsel is to be accepted with caution. We should not advise a novice, for example, to sow the seeds of his annuals in January when he can have his flowers quite as early by sowing them a month later, nor would it be advisable for other persons to leave Gladiolus-bulbs in the ground during the winter, with the expectation that they would prove hardy and sprout in the spring, as they do for Mrs. Thaxter.

What the sympathetic reader will find in this book is a demonstration of the truth that the care of a few square feet of earth can be made a perennial source of genuine pleasure to its owner. This is a truth worth setting forth in every possible light and on every possible occasion, and this fair volume will serve a most useful purpose, we trust, by encouraging many other women to make the experiment and find how much health and pleasure can be derived from planting and watching and nursing into beauty the common annuals which can be purchased at any seed-store.

Childe Hassam is an artist of distinction, but, with one or two exceptions, the reproductions of his work in this volume will hardly satisfy any one who does not admire a riot of colors which are never seen on sea or land. Perhaps, however, the surprising character of these illustrations is appropriate to the somewhat excited style of the text, and the two may work together effectively in drawing attention to the cultivation of flowers as an absorbing and refining pastime.

Notes.

Last year more than 2,000 car-loads of beans, mostly Limas, were shipped from Ventura County, California. Merchantable beans on one ranch were raised at the rate of 1,000 pounds an acre, the entire product being 103 car-loads.

The third part of vol. ii. of the *Contributions of the United States National Herbarium* contains the conclusion of Professor John M. Coulter's "Manual of the Phanerogams and Pteridophytes of Western Texas," the earlier parts of which were noticed in these columns as they appeared.

"The Manual of Orchidaceous Plants," comprising those cultivated under glass in Great Britain, has just reached us. It is published by James Veitch & Son, and is completed in the tenth part, containing a general review of the Orchideæ. This valuable work will be the subject of a review in a later issue.

A meeting was recently held at the house of Mrs. J. P. Lundy, in Philadelphia, to discuss the question of public playgrounds for the children of that city, and a committee was appointed to confer with the Board of Education with reference to using the yards connected with some of the public school-houses for playgrounds during the summer vacation.

A writer in *Meehans' Monthly* observes that nature makes provision for getting rid of the bark of trees by means of cork formations which rift the bark as the trunk increases. As it is the intention of nature, therefore, to remove the old bark it seems no injury to the tree, but rather a help to aid the plant in this direction. Washes of soap-suds or lye-water, or even scraping the trunks of trees, has been found of advantage. Lime-wash is often used, but the objection to it is its white and glaring color. It is, however, the cheapest and best way to treat the bark of fruit-trees.

The profuse flowering of the many Dogwood-trees in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, has been a local event each spring for some years past, and this year's display is now attracting many visitors. The borders of all the neighboring woodlands are also beautified by the blossoms of Cornus florida, and the Black Haw, Viburnum prunifolium, is flowering in every road-side thicket. It is a good thing to repeat what we have often said, that no flora in the world has more beautiful deciduous trees than our different Viburnums, Dogwoods, Hawthorns and Sumachs.

New tamarinds from the West Indies are offered in the fancy-fruit stores, and hot-house peaches from Connecticut may be had at seventy-five cents to a dollar each. The first watermelons from Florida last week sold here for two dollars apiece; these were more fully ripened than a small lot of muskmelons which came on the same steamer. Large shipments of strawberries from North Carolina and Norfolk have made low prices for this fruit; choice berries from the lower part of Delaware are in the markets now, and command at retail from twenty-five to fifty cents for a quart box.

The New Jersey forestry bill, whose provisions we briefly explained in the issue of March 28th, has since become a law. On Saturday a meeting to celebrate the passage of the bill was held at Banksmere, the home of Mrs. John C. S. Davis, Riverton, New Jersey, and the New Jersey Forestry Association was regularly organized. The constitution and by-laws of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association were adopted. Mr. Edward Burrough was elected President, and Mr. D. H. Wright, Secretary, and an executive committee was appointed, composed of twelve members of the new association.

Mr. B. E. Fernow, Chief of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture, is delivering a course of lectures to about fifty members of the senior class of the Agricultural College at Amherst, Massachusetts. The subjects treated in the twelve lectures are "Timber Physics," "Silviculture," including "Artificial Afforestation" and "Natural Regeneration"; "Forest-protection" and "Forest-exploitation," "Forest-survey," "Forest-regulation" and "Forest-finance," "What is Forestry?" "How Trees Grow," "How Forests Grow," "Accretion and its Measurement," "The Battle of the Forest" and "Forestry Problems in the United States."

At a recent display of the Royal Society in London the Messrs. Veitch exhibited a flowering plant of the Corean Rhododendron Schlippenbachii, a handsome plant with pale, rosy lilac, funnel-shaped flowers, the upper lobes of the corolla marked with dark spots near the base. Rhododendron Schlippenbachii is quite new to western gardens, although, in common with many Corean plants, it is a favorite in those of the Mikado's empire, where it was found by Mr. J. H. Veitch during his visit to Japan two years ago. This species, which may be expected to prove hardy in the eastern United States, has not, so far as we know, flowered in this country.

Messrs. Barnard & Densmores, of Los Angeles, California, who send to this market crystallized figs, to which we alluded a few weeks ago, write us that they began to buy figs some ten years ago when there was but one bearing orchard within shipping distance. There are now several thousand acres in good bearing, but some of the varieties cannot be treated by their process for preserving, the details of which, we believe, have never been given to the public. A Fig-tree bears a crop the second year, and a good paying crop the third year. Messrs. Barnard & Densmores have paid one grower at the rate of $500 an acre for figs from trees which were less than ten years old.

Along the palisades of the Hudson River, near this city, patches of Viola cucullata are showing luxuriant flowers in shades of lavender and purple, while the downy yellow violets of V. pubescens and the fragrant white flowers of V. Canadensis are scarce enough to make their discovery a rare pleasure. The flowers of Claytonia Virginica are, perhaps, most abundant of all, although the pink-purple cranesbills, Geranium maculatum, are only less common than the spring beauties. The trim little wind-flower, Anemone nemorosa, is seen singly on occasional plants, and clusters of rue anemone, A. thalactroides, are quite common among the spreading roots of the forest-trees. On jutting ledges of gray rock, fifty feet and more below the crest of the precipice, gay masses of columbines and feathery clusters of the White Baneberry revel in their secure positions.

In a late number of the *Rural New Yorker* there is a figure of a pod of the White Zulu Pole Bean, which was introduced by Mr. Burpee. Last year the vine, as grown on Mr. Carman's grounds, was eight feet tall on the first of August, the seed having been planted on the first of May. The pods, then averaging six inches in length, were often irregular in shape and unevenly filled. The pods were of an ivory whiteness, varying in width from half an inch to an inch, and were very solid and fleshy; the seeds at this stage of maturity were purple, kidney-shaped and about an inch long. The vine remained healthy through August, bearing beans in all stages of growth. When matured, these were purplish black. The quality was rich and excellent and the pod stringless. In a better soil and in a more favorable season it is probable that the beans would grow considerably larger than they did last year, and be more uniform in shape.

Seedlings of Impatiens auricoma, sent to Kew this spring, are now flowering freely there, though the plants are barely six inches high. This distinct little tropical Balsam was introduced into France last year from the Comoro Islands, and distributed by Monsieur Godefroy-Lebeuf, of Argenteuil. It is said to grow to a height of two feet and to bloom all the year round, and it grew well in the open air last summer in France. I. auricoma probably has the same habit and constitution as I. Sultani, but is not likely to become as popular, the flowers being deep yellow, about an inch long and nearly an inch across. A figure of it is soon to be published in the *Botanical Magazine*. I. Sultani when introduced from Zanzibar to Kew, some ten years ago, had rich rose-red flowers, but has since sported into varieties with pink, salmon, crimson and almost purple-colored flowers. A mass of these many-colored blossoms now makes a beautiful picture in one of the tropical houses at Kew.

A correspondent writes us from the Netherlands of the immense bulbous-plant farms with which Haarlem is encircled, and describes the narrow beds of many-colored hyacinths which extend one after another as far as the eye can reach, "like one of those delicately striped gauze scarfs our grandfathers used to bring from the east, flung out over the land. The tulip season is even more famous than that of the hyacinth, and tulip-time is dazzling with scarlet and gold; but the earlier blossoms are both more delicate in hue and more fragrant. Their sweetness would be overpowering under a less wide and open canopy of sky. It hurts one's feelings, however, to see the flaunting advertisements of rival growers suspended or erected upon every side. Yet, from the practical point of view, the bulb farms are satisfactory, too. Their exquisite neatness is notorious, and the stiffness of arrangement, which might be wearisome elsewhere, is here exactly in place. Nor is the Dutch gardener without his dream of evolving something strange and new, and as you listen to his theories you too become converted to his belief that the absence of novelties this spring will be abundantly compensated for next year."